

MARK MEADOWS  
11TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

2160 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6401

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND REFORM  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3311

200 NORTH GROVE STREET, SUITE 90  
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792  
(828) 693-5660

[www.meadows.house.gov](http://www.meadows.house.gov)

October 21, 2019

The Honorable Michael J. Missal  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Inspector General  
810 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Inspector General Missal:

We are reaching out on behalf of our constituents from North Carolina following the release of the report titled *“Facility Hiring Processes and Leaders’ Responses Related to the Deficient Practice of a Radiologist at the Charles George VA Medical Center Asheville, North Carolina,”* on September 30, 2019, regarding the deficient practice of a radiologist at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> We are advocating for the immediate resolution to this issue so the veterans in our districts can be certain they will receive the highest quality of care they deserve.

As you are aware, the VA Office of Inspector General conducted a healthcare inspection to evaluate concerns identified by an OIG team during a Comprehensive Healthcare Inspection Program review at the Charles George VA Medical Center (facility), Asheville, North Carolina, in June 2018. The OIG team was informed that facility leaders had identified deficiencies related to the practice of a fee basis radiologist that resulted in an institutional disclosure to a patient in 2015 and a clinical disclosure to another patient in 2016. Facility leaders were questioned about the circumstances surrounding the disclosures, and the OIG team identified possible gaps in the subject radiologist’s initial professional competency evaluation and whether the facility had taken all required actions after identifying the deficient practices. Additional concerns were subsequently identified related to the facility’s oversight of the subject radiologist’s performance during the six-month tenure, notably that “significant deficiencies in the radiologist’s clinical practice as to raise reasonable concern for the safety of patients.” We are *deeply* concerned by the report’s findings that facility leaders did not complete the credentialing and privileging of the subject radiologist per VHA requirements and that facility managers did not provide adequate oversight of the subject radiologist. We are also concerned facility managers did not take appropriate steps to correct inaccurate interpretations of radiology imaging and clinical documentation in a timely manner.

The men and women who are serving and have served in the Armed Forces deserve the highest quality of care our VA facilities can provide. Conducting oversight of the federal government is one of Congress’ most important Article I responsibilities. We are willing to investigate any issues concerning hiring practices, performance evaluations, or other administrative processes that might be addressed with statutory or non-statutory tools to provide our veterans that level of care. In the meantime, as your office continues to work with the Charles George VA Medical facility to implement the acceptable action plans (see appendixes E and F, pages 31–35) identified in the report, please keep our offices informed. We trust you and your office are making the necessary adjustments to ensure that any clinical negligence on the part of VA physicians and employees at Charles George VA Medical Center is rectified in a timely manner.

Please contact our staff if you have questions. Legislative Director, Chad Yelinski (Meadows) can be reached at (202) 225-6401 or at [chad.yelinski@mail.house.gov](mailto:chad.yelinski@mail.house.gov); and Senior Legislative Assistant, Krista Stafford (McHenry) can be reached at (202) 225-2576 or at [krista.stafford@mail.house.gov](mailto:krista.stafford@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General, "Facility Hiring Processes and Leaders' Responses Related to the Deficient Practice of a Radiologist at the Charles George VA Medical Center Asheville, North Carolina," (September 30, 2019), <https://www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-18-05316-234.pdf>.